

BOXING CLUBS MUST OBEY THE FIRE LAWS

Commissioner Johnson Says He
Will Act if Empire A. C.
Row Is Repeated.

ITS UP TO STATE BODY

McMahon's Must Stand Trial
Before Governors of the
Ring Game.

Unless the State Athletic Commission takes action in the case of the Empire A. C., which conducted the Rivera-Cross bout Tuesday, the Fire Department will step in with an order that will close the club and all others claiming violation of the new fire prevention law. In a discussion of the Manhattan Casino, caused by the overfilling of the house and the admission of many persons who had no tickets, Fire Commissioner Johnson said yesterday:

"Anticipating disorder at the Empire A. C. Tuesday night I issued orders to Chief John Howe to have his men there to enforce the fire laws. Last year these McMahon's caused a lot of trouble when Kilbane and Burns fought at the St. Nicholas rink and Chief Howe on that occasion was compelled to close the doors. That was why I expected trouble at the Rivera-Cross bout.

"Chief Howe told me this morning how he was forced to take action. He said that shortly before a clock Tuesday evening, when the Manhattan Casino was nearly filled, he saw several hundred men burst into the hall through a door leading from a saloon. It was a stampede and Chief Howe promptly notified the managers that he could have to close the doors. One of the managers protested that there were many empty seats, so Howe went on a tour of inspection. He found that here and there a chair was vacant, but he also noticed that the managers that hundreds of men were standing up, ready to swoop down upon the few vacant places.

"The alarm was sounded and the capacity of the building was taxed to the limit when, a few minutes later, Chief Howe ordered the managers to close the doors.

"The Fire Department's duty in the matter was clear. The new fire prevention law makes it imperative to stop overcrowding so that all exits can be reached without confusion. Chief Howe had not closed the doors of the club when the place was filled. I would have begun an investigation at once. But he performed his duty without fear or favor and I have commended him. The fact that ticket holders could not gain admission after the order was enforced does not concern the department. That is a matter to be regulated by the management of the club and the State Athletic Commission. The overcrowding from our point of view looked like a clear case of overfilling the house.

"Personally I believe in boxing bouts and I have witnessed many of them, but there is no excuse for disorderly conduct. If the State Athletic Commission enforces the law compelling each person entering a boxing club to have a ticket there would be very little trouble. A club that sells more tickets than the seating capacity calls for a license for its license.

"In view of these facts I wish to say that if the commission is not able to prevent overcrowding at such affairs, I propose the Fire Department will be compelled to take drastic action. If necessary we will send enough firemen to guard the doors of a club charged with violating the law so that it will be impossible to admit the public."

The commission, according to the Chairman, O'Neil, will investigate the Empire A. C. at next Wednesday's meeting. If not before. If O'Neil can get the consent of either James H. Price or John J. Dixon, the other commissioners, he will call a special meeting at once to conduct a searching inquiry. O'Neil refused to discuss the case yesterday beyond saying that it was up to the commission to take action.

Similar disorder prevailed at the St. Nicholas A. C. last May when Johnny Kilbane and Frankie Burns boxed under the management of the McMahon's. The rink was overcrowded and the Fire Department was forced to stop the sale of tickets. Commissioner O'Neil got into an altercation with the gate tenders when he protested against the admission of many persons who had no tickets. The Fire Department law stipulates that every person entering an athletic club to witness a boxing bout must have a ticket, which must be deposited in boxes in the presence of the State inspectors. This provision of the law was violated at the Kilbane-Burns bout, according to O'Neil, but nothing came of it, in spite of a howl of protest from holders of tickets who could not get in.

There is no excuse for the overcrowding of any club. The managers know to a dot just how many spectators can be accommodated. They are responsible if ticket holders are barred by the action of the Fire Department. While the McMahon's have refunded more than \$1,500 to persons who paid to see the Rivera-Cross bout and could not gain admission to the building the fact remains that the management of the affair was a disgrace to the boxing game and a blot upon the letter and spirit of the law. There isn't a doubt that many persons were allowed to pass into the Manhattan Casino without tickets, a violation of the law, while it is said that other individuals with tickets were admitted through a side entrance unbeknown to the State inspectors who were there to see that all tickets were deposited in the boxes and that the State was not deprived of the full amount of the 5 per cent. tax.

Y. M. C. A. Opposes Columbia.
The Central Y. M. C. A. opens its 1913 season tomorrow with a game against Columbia University at South Field.

SOLDIER OUTFIGHTS SAILOR.

Kearns Forces Pace, but White Holds and Makes Bout Slow.

Two of Uncle Sam's nephews, Sailor White of Brooklyn and Soldier Kearns of Port Hamilton, fought ten slow rounds in the final bout last night at the Port Authority Street Sporting Club. The soldier had the best of the bout by a considerable margin. He forced the fighting all the way, while the sailor held on at every possible opportunity. On several occasions Kearns had to wrestle White to the floor in order to get free from his vice-like hold.

Neil Lawson of Montana was no match for Doc Backus, a soldier from Port Hamilton, in the first of the scheduled ten round bouts. The Swede took an awful beating for the four rounds that he lasted, but Lawson fought back gamely. It was not in the fourth round that Backus laid him away with a hard right to the jaw. The soldier knocked his man down three times in the third round, but was put almost away himself early in the fourth, when Lawson landed a wild swing to Backus's jaw, flooring the Doc for an instant.

The second bout was a one act affair. Arthur Nelson of Chicago matched George Wegener, the Washington Market butcher, at will and made him quit after two minutes of fighting. Wegener spent most of the two minutes looking for a soft spot to drop on.

Toronto Beats "Invincibles."

Boston, Jan. 16.—The Toronto University hockey team because of the cancellation of the scheduled game with Yale at New Haven tonight remained over here and showed that the Boston Athletic Association seven is not unbeatable, as had been considered the case. The score was 4 to 1 in favor of the boys from over the border. The local players held the lead, 2 to 0, at the end of the first half, but in the second period they played miserably, allowing the visitors to get through them consistently. All Toronto had to do was to carry the puck down the rink and pass to Webster, who was waiting in front, and he would do the rest. After scoring four goals in succession in the second half.

Battling Nelson Patched Up.

Battling Nelson has been patched up by Bonsetter Rege at Youngstown, Ohio, and now says he is in good shape. Rege took a kick out of Nelson's right arm, fixed the thumb of his left hand and also put his right mawler in such shape that the fighter declared that it felt stronger than at any time since it was broken several years ago.

Nelson is booked for eighteen fights in the next three months and then may accept an offer to take part in three battles in Australia.

Miss Hutchinson Scores 16 Points.

The girl basketball players of the Orange High School triumphed over Rossmore's team yesterday afternoon in the home gymnasium by a score of 20 to 13. The fine work of Miss Dorothy Hutchinson, captain of the Orange seven, was principally responsible for the victory. Miss Hutchinson edged all of the goals that Orange made from the field, and with two points gained from the foul line was credited with a total of sixteen points.

Davy Jones Released to Sox.

Chicago, Jan. 16.—Davy Jones, the Tigers' veteran left fielder, has been released to the Chicago White Sox at the new American League winter prices of \$2,500. Jones was asked on January 10 to leave the Tigers, but he refused to give up his claim, although six clubs wanted him. There is rumor that he eventually will be sent to Milwaukee to manage Bill Armour's team.

McGraw After Boy Phenom.

ATHOL, Mass., Jan. 16.—Harold Gibbs, captain and star pitcher for the last three years on the Athol High School baseball team, has received an offer from Manager McGraw of the Giants to go south with the club on the spring training trip. It is not likely that Gibbs will accept. Principal McDougall of the high school does not want Gibbs to leave school until he has graduated, which will be in June, and his influence probably will prevail.

Young Brown on the Warpath.

Young Brown, the East Side light-weight, is anxious to box Leach Cross, Joe Rivers, Tommy Murphy or any other boy in his class. Brown has more than held his own in bouts with Matt Wells, Murphy, Jack Goodman, Willie Beecher, Willie Howard, Young Ketchel, Frankie Mauden, K. O. Brown and others.

Andy Smith Goes to Ohio State.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 16.—Andy Smith, head football coach for the University of Pennsylvania last season, probably will coach Ohio State next year in place of John Richards, the old Wisconsin man, who has been teaching the Ohioans football for two seasons.

Are Dan Morgan's Wires Crossed?

Dan Morgan, manager of Jack Britton, in a letter to THE SUN from New Orleans says that Britton has been matched to box Joe Rivers at the Empire A. C. of this city on January 27. As Rivers left here yesterday to box Frankie Russell ten rounds at New Orleans on January 31 for a \$2,500 guarantee, it is possible that Morgan's wires are crossed.

Coster After Johnny Dundee.

James Johnston, manager of Joe Coster, the Brooklyn featherweight, breaks into print with a challenge to Johnny Dundee. Johnston says Dundee can have a match with Coster at any weight, winner take all, with a little bet on the side.

No All Night Riding for Curtis.

Owing to the disbanding of the High School Hockey League Curtis will not be represented on the ice by a team this year. The material on hand was exceptionally good, but owing to unit conditions it was decided that there should be no team. The only available place to practice and play was the St. Nicholas rink. To reach this place by 7 A. M. the Staten Islanders would have to leave home shortly after sunset the preceding day, so the idea was given up and the team disbanded.

See them at the Auto Show

Madison Square Garden

Diamond {No-Clinch} Tires

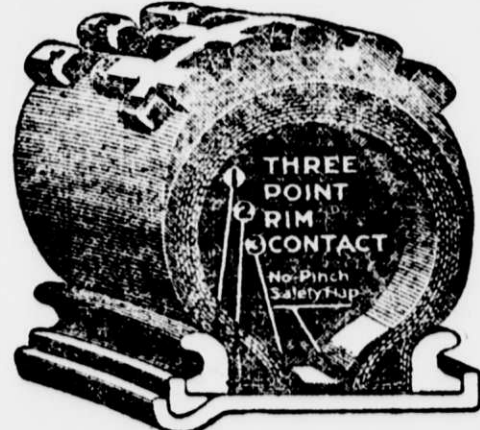
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and Bicycles